

Hans Herr House
1851 Hans Herr Drive
Willow Street vicinity
West Lampeter Township
Lancaster County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-371

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY
PENNSYLVANIA	LANCASTER	WILLOW STREET VICINITY, WEST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME)		HABS NO.
HERR, HANS, HOUSE		PA-371
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)		
1851 Hans Herr Dr.; .6 mile south of U.S. Route 222.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
1719	Builder Christian Herr; possibly also Hans Herr, father of Christian.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)		
The house is the oldest dwelling house in Lancaster County. It also enjoys the distinction of being the first Mennonite meetinghouse in America. (Hans Herr was a Mennonite Bishop). Architecturally, the house is important for its Germanic design.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
Germanic architecture.		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)		
Random sandstone rubble with corner quoins. Sandstone foundations.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
37'-9" (three bays) X 30'-10" (two bays). One-and-a-half stories with lofts. Floor plans: root cellar, ground floor (originally four rooms with central fireplace) two lofts.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE		
Steep gable roof with projecting rafter ends with scalloped pattern; date and initials on front door lintel; windows originally small		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
Vertical posts filled with paling on walls and ceilings; original hewed log stair.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
Restored to its 1719 appearance 1972-73.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
Operates as a museum by owner, Lancaster Mennonite Conference Historical Society.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)		
For further information, see: Barakat. "The Herr and Zeller Houses", Pennsylvania Folklife. XXI, 4 (Summer 1972), pp. 2-22. Contains excellent bibliography of items relevant to general study of Germanic architecture in America, as well as particular study of the Herr House.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION		DATE
Susan McCown, HABS historian		September 26, 1984